

Summary Webinar #5: Palliative Care in Conflict Settings: Supporting Palliative Care in Ukraine

By: Erin Das

September 27, 2022

Facilitated by PallCHASE Executive Member, Father Richard Bauer, in our 5th webinar was a focus on Palliative Care in Conflict Settings – Supporting Palliative Care in Ukraine. The virtual event started with an engaging speaker, Dr. Marta Salek, a pediatric oncology fellow currently working for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and SAFER Ukraine. Since the end of February 2022, Dr. Salek has been on the ground in Poland supporting the St. Jude SAFER Ukraine initiative. The goal of this initiative is to assist with the transition of patients diagnosed with cancer, blood disorders or catastrophic illnesses and their families out of Ukraine to physical safety and assure continuity of high-quality medical care. She shared of the challenges of their work setting up the Unicorn Clinic in Poland.

"...we think about the access of medications in Ukraine which has obviously been disrupted and how to we procure medications for good symptom management and pain control...making sure that we know what the needs are of the doctors especially for the medications that are restricted such as chemotherapies, opiates or other pain medications," (14:30)

St. Jude Global | SAFER Ukraine

Mission Statement
To aid Ukrainian children with cancer to reach physical safety and continue high-quality cancer care

Stakeholders

- **Ukraine:** Tabletochki, Western Ukrainian Specialized Children's Medical Center
- **Poland:** Herosi, Polish Society of Paediatric Oncology and Haematology
- **International:** SIOP, CCI

St. Jude Global

Agulnik 2

We then heard from Mariya Vynnytska, a psychologist working at The Soul Psychology Center, Kiev, Ukraine, a counselling and emotional support center. After the war started, all of their activities moved online. As she reflected on their work, she shared about what they can learn from the palliative care

community including the relief of suffering and alleviation of pain, respect for people's feelings, losses, grief and bereavement process, the culture of long-term and nurturing support of people in need and their family members, and joint advocacy for integration of palliative care services and psychological care into humanitarian crises situations and emergencies. Currently they offer a Crisis Center, a new program of free mental health services for those dealing with trauma due to the war. The presentation ended with the quote from Elisabeth Kubler-Ross *"The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of those depths."*

**Crisis Center
we run**

We are helping people in need by providing free sessions to anyone affected by War in Ukraine

<https://www.facebook.com/TheSoul.Psychology>

- We help Ukrainians cope with and recover from war trauma.
- Anyone who needs help, should just send a message to our manager, Inna: +067 445 1284 (Telegram, Viber, Whatsapp) and we will book session within the next 24 hours.
- 4 psychologists are working in the center

If you wish to support our mission, any donation is much appreciated.

Please visit our page or contact:

Mariya +38 099 669 64 37
(Whatsapp, Telegram, Viber)
<https://www.facebook.com/mariya.vynnytska>

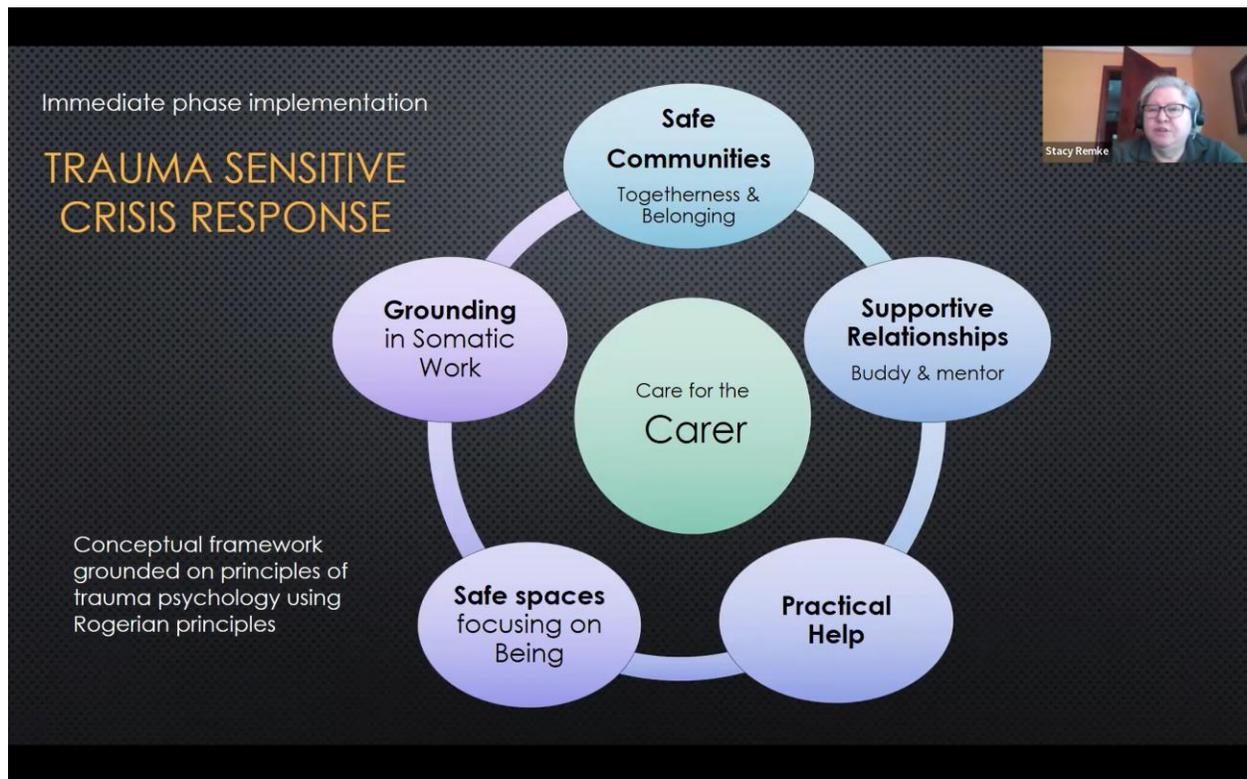
Alexandra +38 050 535 05 10
<https://www.facebook.com/sandra.shymanova>



The webinar concluded with Stacy Remke, Senior Clinical Teaching Specialist at the University of Minnesota's School of Social Work with 27 years as a pediatric palliative care social worker, assisting children with life-threatening and/or chronic, complex conditions and their families in home and community-based settings, as well as in the hospital. During her time of teaching in the webinar, she expanded on the integrative program called the Ukraine Psychosocial Palliative Care & Counselling Coalition of the World Hospice & Palliative Care Social Work Network & PallCHASE. The expertise that the group brings to the current situation in Ukraine is the understand of the seriousness of grief and loss, knowing how trauma intersects with grief and loss, humanitarian response following disasters, community organizing, and the importance of support for health and mental health care providers.

"...our hope is that we can support and promote post-traumatic growth and we see people every day living through unimaginable circumstances and I think in palliative care we certainly have seen this over and over again in the context of serious illness and we have also seen this through human history that

while terrible things happen there are also amazing stories about peoples growth and meaning...that we can help people find that place...so that not just individuals but the community can also grow” (59:36)



The webinar concluded with a panel discussion with Dr Justin Baker, Division of Quality of Life and Palliative Care, St Jude’s Global Palliative Care program, Joan Marston Executive Committee PallCHASE, Dr Megan Doherty Executive Committee PallCHASE, Dr Ann Toh Pediatric Palliative Care Physician Singapore and others continuing the conversation on reflections of the work occurring in supporting Palliative Care programming in Ukraine.